(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the States imposing a considerably higher percentage of duty on property registration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Being a State subject by virtue of Entry 63 in List-ll (State List) in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, making any legislation on Stamp Duty reduction does not come under the purview of Union Government.

However, a scheme of Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF) was under operation since 28.6.2003 till 31.3.2005 for giving incentives to the State/ UTs, which were willing to carry out urban reforms out of the specified list. One of the reforms was related to reduction of Stamp Duty to not more than 5% by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan. An amount of Rs. 283,503 crore was released to various State Governments for taking necessary steps under URIF.

URIF as a separate scheme has been discontinued since 31.3.2005 and has been subsumed in the recently launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005.

**Reservation in NTs**

272. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about 4000 seats available in various Indian Institutes of Technology all over the country;

(b) the system of reservation for these 4000 seats, category-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the intake by 5 per cent this year; and

(d) the details of Government's plans to make better and optimum use of the vast buildings and equipments at various IITs?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) 3890 seats are available in B. Tech. and Dual Degree Programmes in the seven IITs.

In the IITs, in each programme, 15% and 7.5% of seats are reserved for candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) categories, respectively. Candidates belonging to these categories are

admitted on relaxed criteria. In case of the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) for Undergraduate admission, if all the reserved seats in SC/ST category are not filled, other SC/ST candidates failing to qualify even with the relaxed admission norms but satisfying certain other minimum requirements are offered admission to a preparatory course of one year duration. This course attempts to prepare the students in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and English. On successful completion of the course, the students are offered direct admission to the undergraduate programmes against the unfilled quota of seats for that year. 3% seats are reserved for PD (Persons with Disabilities) candidates (including leprosy cured) as specified by the Government, who are otherwise fit to pursue the course and qualify JEE with relaxed norms relevant to this category. Two seats are also available for preferential allotment of courses in each Institute for children of defence/ paramilitary personnel killed or permanent disabled in action during war or. peacetime operations (DS Category). To avail this preferentipl allotment, candidates must qualify for admission in the general category.

The NTs are autonomous institutions and such decisions are taken by their Governing Bodies taking into account availability of infrastructure. Not only for undergraduate but also for the Post-Graduate and Ph.D programmes, the trend is of an increase in intake due to introduction of new programmes, at all levels, including short duration courses/ programmes for optimal utilisation of existing resources. NT's are encourage to expand their existing infrastructure and to increase intake within the available resources.

**Marriageable age of girls**

*273. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) Government's reaction to the judgment of the Delhi High Court declaring legality of the marriageable age of 15 years of girls; *

(b) what is the present provision for marriageable age of a boy and a girl;

(c) the likely social consequences, health scenario and population problems as **a** result thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) There is nothing in the judgment of Delhi High Court relating to the case of